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Identical letters dated 20 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Armed terrorist groups located in the eastern part of Aleppo have perpetrated another despicable, deliberate and premeditated massacre. This time, the victims were children at the Furqan school and the Sariyah Hassun school in the Furqan neighbourhood in western Aleppo. That criminal act killed 10 students ranging in age between seven and 12, and injured 29 others, including a woman teacher whose leg had to be amputated. Sources at both schools confirmed that the students had been assembled in the schools' courtyards to write friendship letters to their fellow schoolchildren in eastern Aleppo.

Terrorist organizations deployed in Bustan al-Qasr in eastern Aleppo fired their missiles of hate at those two schools in order to kill as many students and teachers as possible. In addition to attacking those two schools, terrorists belonging to the Nusrah Front, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki movement, and other organizations that Washington, Paris, London, Doha and Riyadh call "moderate armed organizations" and provide with salaries, financing and weapons, opened fire at the Faculty of Law and the Mogambo and Midan neighbourhoods, killing two people and injuring 23 others. Shells fired by armed terrorist groups also killed two civilians and injured seven others in the A'zamiyah and Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhoods in western Aleppo.

The attacks by armed terrorist groups come after a series of truces declared by the Syrian Government and its allies to spare the lives of innocent civilians in Aleppo. They were launched by armed terrorist groups that get their instructions from foreign capitals and other parties that the Syrian Government has been identifying for some time, and which it also holds responsible for other massacres that have taken place on Syrian territory. Those parties are sending thousands of mercenaries to kill Syrians and destroy the infrastructure built by the sweat of the Syrian people. The continuing terrorist crimes show that support for terrorism is now the established policy of those States, which have used international institutions, including the Security Council, as platforms to justify what the terrorists are doing and obstruct any efforts to condemn or stop them.

Syria hopes for an end to terrorism and an end to the financing of the mercenaries who attack Syrian schools and hospitals, many of which have been

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turned into bases for the armed terrorists to commit further crimes. Syria also calls for the implementation of Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, and in particular resolution 2253 (2015), which was adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and which is being ignored by the sponsors of terrorism in Ankara, Doha and elsewhere. The Syrian people and other peoples of the world fighting terrorism will never be fooled by the duplicitous campaigns being waged by Western officials, their regional proxies and the terrorist-friendly media, which are trying to distort the truth about what is going on in Syria in order to sap the determination of the people and leadership of Syria to fight and vanquish terrorism so that they can reach a political solution based on a Syrian-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership and without foreign interference.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative